AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 11-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently amended) An image forming method comprising:

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing device into a toner image using toners;

transferring said toner image onto a recording medium; and

fixing said toner image transferred onto said recording medium to thereby form a recorded image on a recording sheet;

wherein said latent image is developed with said developing device by first and second developing rollers disposed along the moving direction of said image carrier and rotatable in the mutually opposite directions using a two-component magnetic developing agent consisting mainly of ~~including~~ toners and magnetic carriers, and said toners are supplied to said latent image on said image carrier by said first and second developing rollers,

wherein the moving direction of said first developing roller is opposite to the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio (S1 = Vm1 / Vp) between the peripheral speed (Vm1) of said first developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 0.8 - 2.0,

wherein the moving direction of said second developing roller is the same as the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio (S2 = Vm2 / Vp) between the peripheral speed (Vm2) of said second developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 1.05 - 2.0,

wherein a plurality of shape coefficients SF1, SF2 of said toners of said two-component magnetic developing agent consisting mainly of ~~including~~ toners and magnetic carriers are respectively defined according to the following expressions (1) and (2),

$$SF1 = (\text{maximum length of diameter})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times \pi / 4 \times 100 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$SF2 = (\text{peripheral length of projected image})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times 100 / 4\pi \quad \text{--- (2)},$$

said shape coefficients SF1, SF2 respectively satisfying the following conditions:

$120 \leq SF1 \leq 170$

$110 \leq SF2 \leq 130$, and

wherein said developing said electrostatic latent image comprises preventing an excessive stress from being applied to said developing agent ~~shape coefficient SF2 is selected to provide a desired toner fluidity~~ between said first and second developing rollers to restrict an occurrence of photographic fog.

2. (Currently amended) An image forming method comprising:

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing device into a toner image using toners;

transferring said toner image onto a recording medium; and

fixing said toner image transferred onto said recording medium to thereby form a recorded image on a recording sheet,

wherein said latent image is developed with said developing device by one or more sets of first and second developing rollers disposed along the moving direction of said image carrier and rotatable in the mutually opposite directions using a two-component magnetic developing agent consisting mainly of ~~including~~ toners and magnetic carriers, and said toners are supplied to said latent image on said image carrier by said one or more sets of first and second developing rollers, and

wherein the moving direction of said first developing roller is opposite to the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio ($S1 = Vm1 / Vp$) between the peripheral speed ($Vm1$) of said first developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 0.8 - 2.0,

wherein the moving direction of said second developing roller is the same as the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio ($S2 = Vm2 / Vp$) between the peripheral speed ($Vm2$) of said second developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 1.05 - 2.0,

wherein the shape coefficients SF1, SF2 of said toners of said two-component magnetic

developing agent consisting mainly of ~~including~~ toners and magnetic carriers are defined according to following expressions (1) and (2),

$SF1 = (\text{maximum length of diameter})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times \pi / 4 \times 100$ --- (1)

$SF2 = (\text{peripheral length of projected image})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times 100 / 4\pi$ ---(2),

said shape coefficients SF1, SF2 respectively satisfying the following conditions:

$120 \leq SF1 \leq 170$

$110 \leq SF2 \leq 130$, and

wherein said developing said electrostatic latent image comprises preventing an excessive stress from being applied to said developing agent ~~shape coefficient SF2 is selected to provide a desired toner fluidity~~ between said first and second developing rollers to restrict an occurrence of photographic fog.

3. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S1 is in a range from 0.9 to 1.9.

4. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S2 is in a range from 1.1 to 1.9.

5. (Currently amended) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said toners comprise toner particles having an average diameter in a range from 6 μm to ~~diameters to of 6 =~~ 12 μm.

6. (Currently amended) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said two-component magnetic developing agent comprises a magnetic carrier selected from the group consisting of an ~~that includes one of~~ iron-powder-system carrier ~~carriers~~, a ferrite-system carrier ~~carriers~~, and a magnetite-system carrier ~~carriers~~,

wherein said magnetic carrier comprises carrier ~~carriers comprise~~ particles having an average diameter ~~diameters~~ in a range from 50 - 150 μm.

7. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S1 is in a range from 0.9 to 1.9.

8. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S2 is in a range from 1.1 to 1.9.

9. (Currently amended) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein said toners comprise toner particles having an average diameter in a range from 6 μm to ~~diameters to of 6 -~~ 12 μm.

10. (Currently amended) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein said two-component magnetic developing agent comprises a magnetic carrier selected from the group consisting of an ~~that includes one of~~ iron-powder-system carrier ~~carriers~~, a ferrite-system carrier ~~carriers~~, and a magnetite-system carrier ~~carriers~~,

wherein said magnetic carrier comprises carrier ~~carriers comprise~~ particles having an average diameter ~~diameters~~ in a range from 50 - 150 μm.

11. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said developing said electrostatic latent image comprises using a center feed developing system.

22. (New) The image forming method of claim 21, wherein said center feed developing system comprises a developing agent distributing member between said first and second developing rollers, for restrictively distributing said developing agent to said first and second developing rollers.

23. (New) The image forming method of claim 22, wherein said developing said electrostatic latent image further comprises preventing an excessive stress from being applied to said

developing agent by said developing agent distributing member to restrict an occurrence of photographic fog.

24. (New) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said preventing said excessive stress comprises preventing said toners from fusing and adhering to a surface of said magnetic carriers.

25. (New) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said toners are selected from the group consisting of styrene-acryl-system toners and polyester-system toners.

26. (New) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said preventing said excessive stress comprises controlling a shape of said toner particles.

27. (New) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said shape coefficients SF1, SF2 respectively satisfy the following conditions:

$130 \leq SF1 \leq 160$

$115 \leq SF2 \leq 130$.

28. (New) An image forming method comprising:

in a center feed developing system comprising an image carrier and at least one set of first and second developing rollers disposed along a moving direction of said image carrier and rotatable in mutually opposite directions, supplying toner to an electrostatic latent image on said image carrier to develop said latent image into a toner image,

wherein said supplying said toner comprises preventing an excessive stress from being applied to said toner between said first and second developing rollers to restrict an occurrence of photographic fog.

29. (New) The image forming method of claim 28, wherein said center feed developing

system further comprises a developing agent distributing member formed between said first and second developing roller, and

wherein said supplying said toner further comprises preventing an excessive stress from being applied to said toner by said developing agent distributing member to restrict an occurrence of photographic fog.

30. (New) The image forming method of claim 28, wherein said toner particles have a shape coefficient SF1 in a range from 120 to 170, and a shape coefficient SF2 in a range from 110 to 130, said shape coefficients SF1, SF2 being defined according to the following expressions:

$SF1 = (\text{maximum length of diameter})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times \pi / 4 \times 100$

$SF2 = (\text{peripheral length of projected image})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times 100 / 4\pi$, and

31. (New) The image forming method of claim 30, wherein a moving direction of said first developing roller is opposite to a moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio ($S1 = Vm1 / Vp$) between a peripheral speed ($Vm1$) of said first developing roller and a peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is in a range from 0.8 to 2.0.

32. (New) The image forming method of claim 31, wherein a moving direction of said second developing roller is the same as said moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio ($S2 = Vm2 / Vp$) between a peripheral speed ($Vm2$) of said second developing roller and said peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is in a range from 1.05 to 2.0.

33. (New) The image forming method of claim 30, wherein said at least one set of first and second developing rollers comprises a plurality of sets of first and second developing rollers.